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**TO:** Examiner Jane J. Zara  
**COMPANY:** U. S. Patent Office  
**FAX NO.:** (703) 308-4242 or (703) 305-3014  
**FROM:** Jeff Lloyd   
**DATE:** February 21, 2003  
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Re: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/955,174; filed September 19, 2001  
CONTROL OF NK CELL FUNCTION AND SURVIVAL  
BY MODULATION OF SHIP ACTIVITY  
Our Docket No.: USF-150CX

Attached hereto:

1. Preliminary Amendment

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
Docket No. USF-T150CX  
Serial No. 09/955,174

  
Jeff Lloyd, Patent Attorney

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner : Jane J. Zara  
Art Unit : 1635  
Applicant(s) : William G. Kerr  
Serial No. : 09/955,174  
Filed : September 19, 2001  
For : Control of NK Cell Function and Survival by Modulation of SHIP Activity

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**


Sir:

Please amend the application identified above as follows:

In the claims:

Please substitute the following claims:

Claim 5 (amended):

 5. The method of Claim 4 in which the genetic construct comprises an anti-sense polynucleotide, a polynucleotide that binds to SHIP mRNA, a nucleic acid that hybridizes to a SHIP mRNA, an interfering RNA specific for SHIP mRNA, a recombinant retroviral vector, a ribozyme, an RNA aptamer, a peptidomimetic inhibitor of SHIP function, or a combination of any of the foregoing.